



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/922,995	08/03/2001	Alan Rubinstein	3COM-3653.BCG.US.P	8546
7590	03/10/2004		EXAMINER	
WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP Third Floor Two North Market Street San Jose, CA 95113			HO, CHUONG T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2664	3
DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/922,995	RUBINSTEIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chuong Ho	2664	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

1. Claims 1-25 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465).

In the claim 15, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses a platform and various processes are provided in which a TDM bus and a packet bus are intelligently bridged (intelligent, multiplexing device connector) and managed, thereby enabling such multiple mode/protocol voice and data transmission to be intelligently managed and controlled with a single, integrated system (see col. 2, lines 27-32); comprising:

Providing one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors (31, figure 4), at one or more of work centers (see col. 11, lines 49-67);

Electronically coupling two or more network devices (fax 44, telephones 12, Switched Ethernet 45, Switched Ethernet 45, Hub 47) to powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector (31, figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62);

Multiplexing signals between network and network devices (see figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62);

Monitoring the status (see col. 11, lines 55-59) of the infrastructure of network (see figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62);

Communicating information of status (see col.11, lines 55-59) of infrastructure to the management (B/W management 31) of network (see figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62).

4. In the claims 16, 2, 11, 12, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors (Intelligent/Dynamic B/W Management 31) is accomplished by fixed locating powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors at work centers (see figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62).

5. In the claims 17, 10, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses electronically coupling two or more network devices to powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector is accomplished with modular cable connectors (see col. 12, lines 27-35).

6. In the claims 18, 3, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses step of electronically coupling two or more network devices to powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector (communication system 50) comprises electronically coupling computer (see figure 2, computers 24) (see col. 5, lines 56-61, col. 6, lines 51-60).

7. In the claims 19, 3, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses step of electronically coupling two or more network devices (computers 24, telephones 12, printer 22) to powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector (50) comprises electronically coupling computer peripheral devices (computers 24, telephones 12, printer 22) (see col. 6, lines 51-62).

8. In the claims 20, 4, 5, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses step of electronically coupling two or more network devices (computers 24, telephones 12, printer 22) to powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector (50) comprises electronically coupling voice telephones (telephones 12) (see col. 6, lines 51-62).

9. In the claims 21, 13, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses multiplexing signal is capable of multiplexing network data signals (see col. 8, lines 28-35).
10. In the claims 22, 14, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses multiplexing signals is capable of multiplexing device power (see col. 8, lines 28-35).
11. In the claim 23, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses multiplexing signals is accomplished in powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors (see col. 8, lines 28 – 35).
12. In the claim 24, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses monitoring the status (see col. 11, lines 48-60) of the infrastructure of network is accomplished in part by the use of circuitry resident in powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors (Intelligent/dynamic B/W management 31) (see col. 11, lines 48-60).
13. In the claim 25, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses communication information of the status (see col. 11, lines 48-60) of infrastructure of network is accomplished in part by the use of circuitry resident in powered, intelligent, multiplexed device connectors (see figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-60).
14. In the claim 1, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses a platform and various processes are provided in which a TDM bus and a packet bus are intelligently bridged (intelligent, multiplexing device connector) and managed, thereby enabling such multiple mode/protocol voice and data transmission to be intelligently managed and controlled with a single, integrated system (see col. 2, lines 27-32); comprising:

Providing one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors (31, figure 4), at one or more of work centers (see col. 11, lines 49-67);

Electronically coupling two or more network devices (fax 44, telephones 12, Switched Ethernet 45, Switched Ethernet 45, Hub 47) to powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector (31, figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62);

Multiplexing signals between network and network devices (see figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62);

Monitoring the status (see col. 11, lines 55-59) of the infrastructure of network (see figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62);

Communicating information of status (see col. 11, lines 55-59) of infrastructure to the management (B/W management 31) of network (see figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62).

15. In the claim 9, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses a platform and various processes are provided in which a TDM bus and a packet bus are intelligently bridged (intelligent, multiplexing device connector) and managed, thereby enabling such multiple mode/protocol voice and data transmission to be intelligently managed and controlled with a single, integrated system (see col. 2, lines 27-32); comprising:

Providing one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors (31, figure 4), at one or more of work centers (see col. 11, lines 49-67);

Electronically coupling two or more network devices (fax 44, telephones 12, Switched Ethernet 45, Switched Ethernet 45, Hub 47) to powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector (31, figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62);

Multiplexing signals between network and network devices (see figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62);

Monitoring the status (see col. 11, lines 55-59) of the infrastructure of network (see figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62);

Communicating information of status (see col. 11, lines 55-59) of infrastructure to the management (B/W management 31) of network (see figure 4, col. 11, lines 48-62).

16. In the claim 6, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices (50) are enabled to be coupled wireless to work center devices (computers 24, telephones 12, printer 22) (see col. 6, lines 51-60).

17. In the claim 7, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses cabling is fiber-optic cabling (see col. 12, lines 28-32).

18. In the claim 8, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,154,465) discloses cabling is wire cabling (see col. 12, lines 28-32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

19. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

20. Claims 15, 9, 1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,181,694 B1).

In the claim 15, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,181,694) discloses a platform and various processes are provided in which a TDM bus and a packet bus are intelligently bridged (intelligent, multiplexing device connector) and managed, thereby enabling such

multiple mode/protocol voice and data transmission to be intelligently managed and controlled with a single, integrated system (see col. 8, lines 8-63); comprising:

Providing one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors (31, figure 4), at one or more of work centers (see col. 8, lines 8-63);

Electronically coupling two or more network devices (fax 44, telephones 12, Switched Ethernet 45, Switched Ethernet 45, Hub 47) to powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector (31, figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63);

Multiplexing signals between network and network devices (see figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63);

Monitoring the status (see col. 8, lines 8-63) of the infrastructure of network (see figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63);

Communicating information of status (see col. 8, lines 8-63) of infrastructure to the management (B/W management 31) of network (see figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63).

21. In the claim 9, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,181,694) discloses a platform and various processes are provided in which a TDM bus and a packet bus are intelligently bridged (intelligent, multiplexing device connector) and managed, thereby enabling such multiple mode/protocol voice and data transmission to be intelligently managed and controlled with a single, integrated system (see col. 8, lines 8-63); comprising:

Providing one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors (31, figure 4), at one or more of work centers (see col. 8, lines 8-63);

Electronically coupling two or more network devices (fax 44, telephones 12, Switched Ethernet 45, Switched Ethernet 45, Hub 47) to powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector (31, figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63);

Multiplexing signals between network and network devices (see figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63);

Monitoring the status (see col. 8, lines 8-63) of the infrastructure of network (see figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63);

Communicating information of status (see col. 8, lines 8-63) of infrastructure to the management (B/W management 31) of network (see figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63).

22. In the claim 1, Pickett (U.S.Patent No. 6,181,694) discloses a platform and various processes are provided in which a TDM bus and a packet bus are intelligently bridged (intelligent, multiplexing device connector) and managed, thereby enabling such multiple mode/protocol voice and data transmission to be intelligently managed and controlled with a single, integrated system (see col. 8, lines 8-63); comprising:

Providing one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors (31, figure 4), at one or more of work centers (see col. 8, lines 8-63);

Electronically coupling two or more network devices (fax 44, telephones 12, Switched Ethernet 45, Switched Ethernet 45, Hub 47) to powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector (31, figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63);

Multiplexing signals between network and network devices (see figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63);

Monitoring the status (see col. 8, lines 8-63) of the infrastructure of network (see figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63);

Communicating information of status (see col. 8, lines 8-63) of infrastructure to the management (B/W management 31) of network (see figure 4, col. 8, lines 8-63).

Conclusion

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuong Ho whose telephone number is (703) 306-4529.

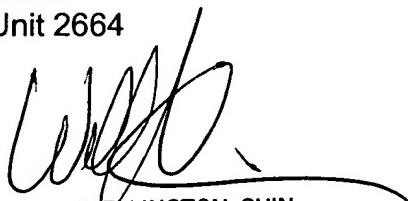
The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

24. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chuong Ho
Examiner
Art Unit 2664

02/25/2004



WELLINGTON CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600